

THE

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SHEKEL



VOLUME XLIII

No 5

Sept-Oct 2010

AN AFFAIR . . .



. . . TO REMEMBER

PLUS:

- › FIRST JEWISH MEDAL
- › BUILDING A NATION
- › \$92,000 MYERS COIN



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On August 12, 2010, Lot 20110 in our Official ANA Signature® Auction of ancient coins will sell: a rare, high grade AV aureus of Gaius Caligula, with Germanicus. A.D. 37-41. (19 mm, 7.66 g, 10 h); minted in Rome, A.D. 40. RIC 25; BMC 26; Calicó 324; Cohen 6. Good VF, well centered and good portraits. Germanicus, the father of Caligula, was popular with the Roman masses for his good looks and wartime heroics, especially the pacification of Germany. The grandson of Augustus' wife Livia, Germanicus was named for his father Drusus's spectacular conquests in Germany during the second decade of Augustus' reign. Germanicus died during a diplomatic mission under suspicious circumstances, and Germanicus' widow Agrippina and her sons Drusus and Nero would lose their lives in the interminable power struggles – only he more infamous son Caligula survived. To view the Price Realized by this rarity, and some 250 other ancients being offered at the 2010 Boston ANA World Coin Auction, just visit www.HA.com/worldcoins (Auction #3010).

The appointment of David S. Michaels as Heritage's Director of Ancient Coins is an important part of Heritage's commitment to serve that market with the same enthusiasm and expertise that we bring to U.S. Coins, Currency, and World Coins. David brings to our numismatic team a quarter century of experience specializing in ancient coins, providing a knowledgeable and friendly contact for the community. He looks forward to raising awareness of the benefits of collecting ancient coins to Heritage's 500,000+ registered bidder-members at HA.com, the most popular numismatic website in the world. David looks forward to helping old and new collectors enjoy the pursuit of these enticing pieces of ancient history, acquiring new treasures and selling old ones. Heritage offers the highest standards of cataloging and photography, the widest possible exposure to collectors at all levels, and speedy and professional payment – all at very competitive terms.

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SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME

ANA 2010: FREE MEMBERSHIPS, FREE GIFTS!

As you will read elsewhere in this issue, AINA signed up a record number of new members at the Boston ANA Convention, including more than a dozen “Juniors.”

Thanks go to Donna Sims who never left her post, along with stalwart Michael Mooney, our “Man in Boston,” plus the valued assistance of Oded Paz, Josh Prottas and other board members.

At the show, we were very fortunate in meeting Matthew F. Erskine, Esq. Trustee, Kittredge Numismatic Foundation, who made us a unique offer.

The Kittredge Numismatic Foundation has offered to sponsor any new junior member — age 13 to 19 — who wants to join AINA.

This offer means that our members can write to us with the names of teenagers who would enjoy learning about our wonderful hobby, and we will give them a FREE one-year membership.

New Junior Members will receive six copies of “The Shekel,” AINA’s free annual medal, plus all the other benefits of membership.

You can now give bar/bat mitzvah presents, graduation presents, Chanukah presents, birthday presents, etc. at no cost whatsoever. So sharpen your pencils and send in those names (along with yours!), so we can tell the recipient who sponsored them.

AINA congratulates the Kittredge Numismatic Foundation for the outstanding work they are doing to bring in new faces to our hobby — which educates as well as entertains all from age 9 to 99 and sometimes beyond.



AINA board members attending the American Numismatic Association 2010 summer meeting in Boston included, from left, front row: Michael Mooney, Mel Wacks, Donna Sims. Back row from left, Josh Prottas, Roger Merritt. Oded Paz also attended.

In the last issue, I mentioned the very generous contribution of hundreds of Israel Mint Sets by the Halperin Family. These sets are valued up to \$40 each—but the AINA Board voted to give them away! Any AINA member who gives a new 3-year gift membership to someone (for \$54 in USA or Canada or \$75 overseas) can choose to receive a free mint set for himself/herself or to have it sent to the recipient. Of course we will also tell the new member who was his/her generous benefactor. That’s the equivalent of giving 3-year memberships for as little as \$5 per year!

We look forward to growing AINA with the help of our members—giving teenagers free 1-year memberships or giving anyone a 3-year membership and getting a valuable numismatic gift. We look forward to hearing from you!

Happy Collecting,

AINA at the ANA

*Boston 2010 World's Fair of Money
programs hugely successful for AINA*



BY DONNA SIMS, NLG

LOTS OF HELP at the Boston 2010 AINA table: Left to right, front row, Michael Mooney, Oded Paz, Donna Sims, Mel Wacks, Walter Ostromecki, Mark Lighterman. Left to right, back row; Paul Kahane, Irvin Black and Josh Prottas.

The AINA table this year - and for the first time ever - was located in a prime spot among all the club tables, positioned just inside the main doors as you entered the convention area.

With the good location, and with our volunteering to be one of the "Question and Answer" for Young Numismatists visiting the bourse, the time spent at the American Numismatic Association's 2010 Boston *World's Fair of Money* was well worth the effort.

Of the 38 new members joining AINA, 15 are adults and 23 are juniors. We were fortunate this year in acquiring so many junior members, thanks to the generosity of the

Kittredge Numismatic Foundation, which offered to sponsor all new juniors from the ages of 13-19. The new members bring total AINA membership to 769.

Our table also featured its annual free T-shirt-from-Israel drawing and this year's lucky winner was one of our new members, Irvin Black from New York City.

With the AINA table busy throughout the Aug. 10-14 ANA 2010 convention, we were fortunate to have had plenty of help staffing the table.

Board members Michael Mooney, Oded Paz, and Josh Prottas worked regularly along with Mel Wacks and Donna Sims.

Continued

AINA healthy, growing; 79 new members

Continued

In addition to helping at the AINA table, Josh was an ANA volunteer and judge in the Exhibit Room and Oded also was an ANA volunteer and assisted at the Elongated Coins club table.

The board of the American Israel Numismatic Association met on Wednesday evening for one of most productive meetings ever.

The Election Committee reported the following were seated as board members for three-year terms: Mel Wacks, Sagi Salomon, Michael Mooney and Marvin Kay of Toronto.

The announcement at the board meeting that the children of Dr. Samuel Halperin, Dr. Elan C. Halperin and Dr. Barbara Brynolson, had donated 164 mint sets to AINA was well received. The board decided that any AINA member who gave a three-year membership to a new member (total dues: \$54) would receive one of these mint sets. The mint sets are valued at up to \$40 each.

For the year ending June 30, 2010, the year-end report of the



From left: Donna Sims, Arthur Boxer, CEO of the Israel Coins and Medals Corp., and Mel Wacks at the ICMC booth.

treasurer stated a total balance of all accounts at \$225,045.90.

The membership analysis report showed a total of 50 new members from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

The board also agreed that AINA will donate to the American Numismatic Society \$2,700 in January 2011, to digitize all of the ancient Judaeen coins in their collection.

The board also agreed upon to reinstitute AINA Regional Representatives. More information on this program will be forthcoming.

The general membership meeting was held Thursday afternoon. Each person attending received a goodie bag assembled by Michael Mooney.

One of the last three silver coins donated by Arnold Kagan was placed inside one of three special goodie bags.

(Fair disclosure: I must admit that

Continued

AINA's outreach programs very succesful

Continued

I happened to be one of the lucky recipients!) AINA member Simcha Kuritzky gave a slide presentation on the Temple Tax.

Special guests at the meeting were members of the Israel Coins and Medals Corporation: Arthur Boxer, Gilli Ra'anán, Iris Vainer and Adi Amar.

The ICMC donated ½ Shekel notes which were included in the goodie bags.

AINA member Paul Kahane, who is the designer of this year's membership medal, will also be the designer for next year's medal, "People of the Book."

Also in attendance was Lewis B. Dashe, president of the ZOA, Mid-Atlantic Region.

On Thursday evening, AINA board members were dinner guests of the ICMC.

Overall, Boston was good for AINA. See you in Chicago!



YOUTH OUTREACH: *Young Numismatists from the Little Children Schoolhouse in Brookline, MA, visited the American Israel Numismatic Association table and met with, standing in the back row, left to right, AINA members Michael Mooney, Mel Wacks and AINA member and ANA Board Member Walter Ostromecki.*

Simcha Kuritzky, longtime exhibitor at many numismatic shows, was the honored recipient of several awards, including two First Place awards and one Second Place award for his exhibits.

Modern U.S. Coins and Modern Medals – 1) Simcha Laib Kuritzky, "Feline Species Type Set"

Engraved Coins – 2) Simcha Laib Kuritzky, "A Zulu Love Token"

Numismatics of Africa and the Middle East – 1) Simcha Laib Kuritzky, "The Jewish Lion"

Radford Stearns Memorial for Excellence in Exhibiting (Best in Show. runners-up) - 2) Simcha Kuritzky "The Jewish Lion."

Congratulations Simcha!

ANCIENT HIGHLIGHTS

FROM OUR SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2010
PRE-LONG BEACH AUCTION



Celtic Gaul
The Boli
Gold Stater EF



Etruria
Populonia
211-206 BC
Gold 25 Units
Superb EF



Sicily Syracuse 485-466 BC
AR Tetradrachm
Ex Gillet, Hunt EF



Macedonia
Alexander III
336-323 BC
Gold Distater
Nearly MS



Kingdom of Thrace
Lysimachus 323-281 BC
Gold Stater EF



Attica, Athens 475-465 BC
AR Tetradrachm, Ex Triton I EF



Caria Cnidus 404-395 BC
AR Tetradrachm, Apparently
Unique Superb EF



Mysia Cyzicus 500-450 BC
EL 1/6 Stater Nearly MS



Egypt Berenice II 246 -222 BC
Gold Pentadrachm EF



Egypt Ptolemy IV
222-205 BC
Gold Oktodrachm EF



Sextus Pompey 44-43 BC
AR Denarius EF



Claudius & Agrippina II
41-54 AD AR Cistophorus
About EF



Gordian I Africanus
238 AD AR Denarius
Nearly MS



Manlia Scantilla
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A NEW CANDIDATE

FOR THE FIRST AMERICAN-JEWISH MEDAL

BY MEL WACKS



A drawing of the 1784 Circumcision Medal created by Myer Myers of New York City. It is believed that this is the first time that this drawing is reproduced in a numismatic publication. Thanks to Tammy Kiter, Reference Librarian/Archivist of the American Jewish Historical Society, for supplying Jacques Judah Lyons' drawing made in the 1870s [The Lyons Collection, Vol. II, PAJHS, 27 (1920), pp. 383-84] of Moses Etting Hays' circumcision medal by Myer Myers.

It has been universally held that "Moritz Fürst ... has to his credit the first recorded American Jewish Medal ... of Gershom Mendes Seixas" (Daniel Friedenberg, *Jewish Minters & Medalists*, p. 70), that according to new research, the first medal was made c. 1812 (Mel Wacks, Gershom Mendes Seixas, "The First American Jewish Medal," in the Spring 2009 issue of *The*

Medal, pp.37-8).

However, this was not the first American Jewish medal!

That distinction belongs to a circumcision medal created by the great Jewish colonial American silversmith Myer Myers (1723-1795), as was noted by Friedenberg (*Jewish Medals from the Renaissance to the Fall of Napoleon*, p. 68).

Continued

MYER MYERS CREATED 1ST MEDAL

Continued

In the "American Jewish Historical Quarterly," Volume 27 (1920), a silver medal belonging to David Hays of New York is described as follows:

"This medal was given by the Mohel Elchanan bar Abraham to Moshe bar David in the year 5480 = 1719. [This is undoubtedly an error in transcription. The date should be 5544 — 1784.]

"This is Moses Hays, grandfather of David Hays, the present owner of the medal (the latter being the son of Benjn. Hays, formerly of West Chester County). This medal manufactured by Myers the silversmith has the same trade mark as the Rimonom [which were] manufactured 5490 [1730], property of Congregation.

"The letters 87 on the reverse of the medal evidently means 41, the number of children thus far named by this Mohel."

The following translation of the two circular inscriptions on the obverse is written on a slip of paper pasted in the book:

Outer line of the medal:

"I, Eichanan son of Abraham lifted up my hands in the holy covenant to circumcise the boy— (inner line) Moses son of David on Monday, 5 Tishri, this day being the thirteenth since his birth in 5544 [1784]."

I saw a similar medal that he

presented to Israel, son of Isaac Moses, named in 5544 [1784].

A drawing shows both sides of a silver medal with an inscription in Hebrew, and the hallmarked name of the silversmith, "MYERS," printed on one.

In his 2001 Doctoral dissertation "Myer Myers and the Silver-smith's Trade in New York City, 1746—1795," David L. Barquist wrote: "Moses Hays died unmarried, and in the 1870s this medal belonged to his nephew, David Solis Hays. The present author's attempts to trace its ownership further have proved unsuccessful." (p.153).

About Myer Myers

Myers was born in 1723 New York City, where he was a successful silversmith and also an influential figure in the Jewish community, particularly as one of the heads of the Congregation Shearith Israel.

Myers was most productive in the 1760s. He moved with his family to Connecticut when the British occupied New York in 1776, and returned in 1783.

Among the approximately 380 pieces of silver and gold objects extant carrying the "MM" mark are Torah finials (rimonim) in the collections of synagogues in New

Continued

MYERS ALSO ASSAYED U.S. COINS



The obverse of the first known medal commemorating a bris or circumcision depicts the anointing of King David. Right, the reverse of the same medal, struck in 5425/1625 C.E., depicts King David dancing ahead of the procession carrying the Ark of the Covenant.

Continued

York, Philadelphia and Newport, as well as candlesticks, shoe buckles, tankards, swords, and more.

Myers was elected chairman of the Gold and Silver Smith's Society, which also included Ephraim Brasher, creator of the famous Brasher Doubloon.

One duty of a Society member was the responsibility of working as a "regulator" - to counter-stamp and if necessary plug gold coins in circulation to certify their purity and weight.

Thus, some foreign coins feature the initials EB for Ephraim Brasher, MM for Myer Myers, and others.

Early Circumcision Medals

According to *The Encyclopedia of the Jewish Religion* (edited by R. J. Zwi Werblowsky and Geoffrey Wigoder, 1966), "Circumcision is the removal of the foreskin in an operation performed on all male Jewish children on the eighth day after birth ... as enjoined by God upon Abraham and his descendants (Gen 17:10-12)."

The earliest known circumcision medal (Daniel Friedenber, *Jewish Medals from the Renaissance to the Fall of Napoleon*, pp. 65-67) was made in 1665 in Amsterdam: "Almost 3½ inches in diameter, and cast and chased in gold;" and is in the collection of the Israel Museum.

The obverse pictures the anointing of David as king, with a Hebrew inscription indicating that

Continued

MYERS IMPORTANT COLONIAL SILVERSMITH

Continued

a child by the name of David was born on the 5th of Tammuz, 5425 (1665).

The reverse depicts King David dancing before the Ark with the Biblical inscription: "And David danced before the Lord with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod" (2 Sam. 6:14).

According to Webster's New World College Dictionary, an ephod was "a richly embroidered outer vestment worn by Jewish priests in ancient times."

Friedenberg indicates that "Almost a century passed before we have a record of another birth medal, also assumed to celebrate circumcision.

This too occurred in Holland.

Dated 5508 in Hebrew, and therefore issued in 1747-1748, the obverse of



A Rimmonim created by New York City silversmith Myer Myers for a local synagogue in New York City.

the medal shows a pair of scales with a ribbon, indicating the hope of the parents that later life would deal justly with the child.

The reverse is inscribed in Hebrew: "In the city of Dordrecht, Abraham, the son of Hertog [Zangers]."

And the next circumcision medals reported by Friedenberg are two made by Myer Myers.

He sums up by saying "The fragile nature of [19th century circumcision] medals and the insecurity of Jewish life meant they were melted down or destroyed."

Wouldn't it be nice if the custom of circumcision medals could be renewed in the 21st century?



*Images courtesy Stack's
Myer Myers serving spoon and one of two hallmarks stamped on the large silver spoon.*

AT AUCTION

MYERS COUNTERSTAMPED COIN SELLS FOR \$92,000

*Price trumps top Brasher counterstamped coin
sold at same Heritage auction*



Images courtesy Heritage Auctions

The obverse of a 1771 Brazil gold 6400 reis bears the counterstamp of New York silversmith Myer Myers (his MM mark is stamped directly above the portrait's right ear). See inset at right, above. Such marks conveyed an assurance of purity and value for the coin prior to the establishment of the first official U.S. Mint.

The coin's reverse is below.



A 1771 Brazil 6400-reis gold coin counterstamped by noted New York silversmith Myer Myers sold for \$92,000 (including buyer's fee) at a Heritage auction conducted at the 2010 American Numismatic Association convention in Boston.

The 6400 reis coin, also known as a "Half Joe," is believed to be the only known gold coin to bear the "MM" counterstamp of Myers.

Myers was one of New York's most famous silversmiths, a guild that also included John Burger and Ephraim Brasher. Myers was a leader in the Jewish community of New York and an ardent patriot who fled the city for Connecticut and Philadelphia during the British occupation. This Myers' counterstamped coin outsold a 1775 Chile 8 escudos counterstamped by Brasher which realized \$80,500 (including buyer's fee.)

Continued

MYERS STAMP POSSIBLY UNIQUE



Images courtesy Heritage Auctions

A 1775 Chile 8 escudos counter-stamped by Ephraim Brasher sold for \$80,500 (includes buyer's fee) in a Heritage Auction Galleries auction at the 2010 American Numismatic Association's "World' Fair of Money" in Boston in early August; the highest price paid for a Brasher counterstamped coin at the ANA auction. Obverse, top left; below, coin's reverse; above, detail of Brasher's **EB** counterstamp mark.

Continued

The Heritage Auction catalog (2010 ANA Signature Auction No 3010) best explains the importance of the Myers counterstamp on this gold coin. The Myers coin, notes the Heritage catalog, is an "outstanding piece, the only Myer Myers regulated gold coin we have identified. Myers is one of New York's most famous and well-studied silver-smiths.

"John Burger, the well-known regulator, was once his apprentice; they were partners while exiled from New York from 1779 to 1783.

"Myers was elected chairman of the Gold and Silver Smiths Society of New York in 1786; other members of this small guild included Burger and Ephraim Brasher.

"Myers was a leader in the New York Jewish community and an ardent supporter of the Patriot cause.

"During the British occupation, he lived in both Norwalk, Connecticut and Philadelphia.

"This piece was likely regulated ca. 1784, when the Bank of New York promulgated a 9 dwt standard for Half Joes.

"It was probably further clipped and re-edged sometime later.



"Any piece of Myers work is rightly prized by those who collect early American silver.

"This potentially unique Myers regulated Half Joe is one of the great highlights of this collection.

Edward wrote an article that was published in *The Numismatist* in December 2006 regarding this piece.

Provenance: From Ira and Larry Goldberg's June 2001 sale, Lot 911.

From the Edward Roehrs Collection of U.S. Regulated Gold."

Estimate: \$40,000 - \$80,000

CREATING MODERN ISRAEL

BY SIMCHA KURITZKY, NLG

PART II ILL WINDS FAN HATRED'S FLAMES

Review: In Part I, the early history of the Jews was covered, from before the destruction of the Temple in 70 C.E., by the Roman legions under future emperor Titus, through almost two millennia of extraordinary struggle to maintain religious, cultural and societal identities and the beginnings of the effort to found a nation, again.

Backlash

As Jews integrated into the social and economic fabric of their host countries, resentment increased among their Christian neighbors.

With many professions and privileges denied to Jews, thousands of unobservant Jews converted, becoming unbelieving Christians, only to find that discrimination and prejudice was almost as bad for Jews incognito as it was for open Jews.

By the end of the 19th century, anti-Semites were on the rise. The 1873 stock market crash in Germany and the prevalence of Jews and former Jews in the



Contemporary magazine illustration of Dreyfus stripped publicly of rank on Paris street in 1895.

stock exchange led to a resurgence in Judeophobia there.

For the French, it was the court martial of Alfred Dreyfus that brought their widespread hatred of Jews to the surface. Dreyfus was an engineer who entered the army and rose to captain on the general staff in 1892.

In 1894, the French Intel-

Continued

DREYFUS CASE SPLITS FRANCE

Continued

ligence Service intercepted a letter to the German embassy that revealed state secrets.

The French army forged documents to show that Dreyfus wrote the letter, and Dreyfus was summarily convicted of treason and sent to Devil's Island off the coast of French Guiana.

French mobs shouted "Mort au Juif" Death to the Jew when Dreyfus was stripped of rank.

There were anti-Jewish riots in France and French Algeria.

In 1896, the French Intelligence Service intercepted a letter written by the German military attaché to Ferdinand Esterhazy which made it clear that it was Esterhazy, not Dreyfus, who had sent the original letter.

When Georges Picquart, the head of the Intelligence Service, brought this to the army's attention, Picquart was reassigned to Tunisia.

Esterhazy was tried and acquitted.

In 1898, Emile Zola published his famous letter "J'Accuse," accusing the government of a cover-up. Zola was found guilty of libel.

The Dreyfus Affair split French society in two: humanists supported Dreyfus and patriots supported the army.

The case was reopened in 1898 and the forged letters revealed.

A new trial in 1899 declared that Dreyfus was guilty but re-



A 28mm looped bronze medal, issued after 1898, depicts Dreyfus, top center, Zola at left and the defense attorney Labori at right.

duced the sentence to 10 years.

The President immediately pardoned Dreyfus and released him from prison. When a new government came to power in 1904, Dreyfus appealed and was finally exonerated in 1906.

The conviction of Dreyfus as a Jew, even though he had fully assimilated into French society, shocked world Jewry, and many Jews lost faith in emancipation and other liberal reforms.

A 28mm looped bronze medal, shown above, was issued after 1898. One side shows three busts in circles with olive sprigs. In the center is Dreyfus, to the left is Emile Zola, and to the right is Dreyfus's defense counsel Labori. On the other side are two busts with an oak sprig (the symbol of Germany) at top. On the left is Esterhazy,

Continued

HERZL A REPORTER AT TRIAL

Continued

and on the right is Du Paty de Clam, who was the commandant in charge of the original investigation. The only inscriptions are the men's names.

Modern Zionism

The Dreyfus trial made a very strong impression on Benjamin Theodore Herzl, a Jewish journalist from Vienna who lived in Paris. Herzl witnessed the crowds yelling "Death to the Jew" as Dreyfus was publicly stripped of rank in January, 1895.

If France, the first European nation to grant Jews full citizenship rights, could be home to so much Judeophobia, then perhaps the only way for Jews to secure their future was to establish their own independent state.

Over the next few years, Herzl developed the idea of political, or modern, Zionism: a Jewish national identity that was not dependent on God or His promises.

Herzl attracted many followers from older Zionist organizations, but he did not build on the accomplishments of others. He organized the first Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland in 1897, and began a political movement that asked the world to accept the Jews as a nation equal to that of any other nation.

The Zionist Organization authorized the German-language publication "Die Welt" (The World) in 1897, orga-

nized a bank called the Jewish Colonial Trust in 1899, and created the Jewish National Fund (JNF) to acquire land for settlement in 1901.

Their first crisis came in 1903, when England offered the Jews land in what is now Kenya.

When the Zionist Organization rejected this proposal in 1905 after Herzl's death, many of their members left to form the Independent Territorial Organization, which approved of settlement outside the Land of Israel (the ITO dissolved in 1925).

Meanwhile, the JNF purchased land in the Galilee in 1904, and in 1908 acquired land near Lake Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) and founded on the site the first kibbutz communal farm. This started the Second Aliya, in which about 40,000 Jews moved to the Land of Israel before World War One.

Herzl organized the Jewish Colonial Trust, a.k.a. Der Juedische Colonialbank, in 1899. The bank was capitalized with 2,000,000 shares of one pound (\$5 U.S.) each.

This sum was more than a week's wages for many workers, so many shares were paid off over time.

Share clubs developed to divide a single share among several investors.

The text on the front of the depicted share is in Hebrew and English, because the bank was incorporated in London.

Continued

ANGLO-PALESTINE CO. CREATED



A certificate for five shares in the Anglo-Palestine Company issued in 1919. The company was set up to provide loans to farmers as well as perform all other regular banking functions in Palestine.

Continued

The reverse has text written in German, Russian and French.

There are vignettes in each corner (from the top left, clockwise): men praying at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, a farmer sowing seeds, factory workers, and men moving cargo in a harbor.

The images are similar to vignettes appearing on national bank notes in Western nations at the time.

The Trust began operations in 1902 when the minimum quarter million shares had been sold.

The next year, the trust created the Anglo-Palestine Company to act as a bank, performing all banking functions (and was renamed the Anglo-Palestine Bank in 1930).

The certificate shown above is for five shares. Issued April 3, 1919, it originally included interest coupons on the bottom.

The certificate has a British revenue stamp on the front for 1/6 and a Greek 1 drachma revenue stamp on the back.

Turkish Rule and the Great War

The second crisis to modern Zionism was the Great War, now known as World War One. The Zionist Organization was split between Berlin and London (an office was opened in neutral Copenhagen to facilitate communication).

Many Jews from Russia, some of whom had fled for their lives to the Holy Land after the unsuccessful revolt of 1905, were imprisoned or expelled by the Turks since Russia was on the other side of the war.

The Turks also expelled British and French Jews, and refused to allow remaining Jews to form a military unit for the

Continued

LAND OF ISRAEL POOR IN WWI

Continued

defense of Turkish Palestine.

In Europe, Jews participated in both sides of the war. Germany allowed Jews to become officers for the first time, and many Jews volunteered for the army, hoping to be assigned to the eastern front where they could liberate their people from the Russians.

Jews also swelled the ranks of the French and British armies.

When the Jewish refugees from Turkey proposed forming a fighting unit within the British army to liberate the Jewish homeland, the British begrudgingly allowed them to instead form the Zion Mule Corps which provided combat support.

After an exceptional performance at Gallipoli in 1915, the Mule Corps was disbanded. Petitions to create a Jewish fighting unit were slowly answered, and in mid-1917, the 38th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers was formed and deployed in 1918.

A 39th Battalion was formed in April 1918 with a large American Jewish volunteer contingent, and in August 1918 a 40th Battalion was formed of Jews who had remained in the Holy Land.

The economic climate in the Holy Land, which was never very good, worsened just before and during the war. Around 20,000 Jews left due to economic hardship or were expelled by the Turks from 1905 to 1915.

The Land of Israel was rural and impoverished.



A 1984 Israel 10 Sheqalim coin depicts Theodore Herzl in a modern abstract portrait on the 150th anniversary of his birth.

The Jews had to set up their own banking facilities, and often issued tokens to supplement the sparse Turkish and foreign coinage.

The Anglo-Palestine Company issued franc-denominated registered checks which circulated as money.

Most Jews couldn't sustain themselves and relied on charity from their former communities back in Europe.

When the yeshivot (religious schools for boys and men) ran out of funds, they issued promissory notes that also would circulate as currency.

A uniface note for 50 napoleons (1000 gold francs or U.S. \$195) was issued by Ezrat Yisrael (Help of Israel), the Warsaw Community in Jerusalem, and is dated Tamuz 5, 5674 (June 29, 1914) and was to be paid in one year.

Continued

EARLY NOTES WERE “NAPOLEONS”

Continued

The Turks cancelled all promissory notes when the war began, so this note (shown on next page) was not redeemed.

British Conquest

The Holy Land had been under Turkish rule since the rise of the Ottoman Empire in 1517.

But for decades, both the French and British had their eye on the Holy Land. The French historically had supported the Roman Catholic Church and served as a protector of its interests, including a number of holy sites in Palestine.

The British, on the other hand, were interested in linking up their African territories, including Egypt, with India.

The result was the 1916 Sykes-Picot Agreement, named after the British and French officials who negotiated it, which divided up the old Roman province of Syria Palestine and Mesopotamia between British and French spheres of influence. The French would get the northern section and the British, the southern, with the Holy Land jointly controlled.

The British immediately set



A uniface note for 50 napoleons (1,000 gold francs or \$195 U.S.) issued by Esrat Yisrael (*Help of Israel*), the Warsaw Community in Jerusalem, and is dated Tamuz 5, 5674 (June 29, 1914) and was to be paid in one year. Turkish authorities cancelled all promissory notes at the beginning of World War II and this particular note was never redeemed.

about to expand their share.

Shortly after the British invaded Palestine in October 1917, British Foreign Secretary (and former Prime Minister) Arthur Balfour wrote to Lord Rothschild, a leader in the British Jewish Community, stating his government's support for a "national home for the Jewish people" in the Holy Land but under British rule.

Palestine was ruled by the British military under the Occupied Enemy Territory Administration South until 1920, when a High Commissioner was appointed by the Colonial Office.

The British conquest set off the Third Aliya, when 40,000 Jews came to Palestine, most were escaping the Russian civil

Continued

EARLY COINS HONOR ANCIENTS

Continued

war and Judeophobic violence in Poland and Hungary.

For the first decade under British rule, the official money of British Palestine was the Egyptian pound, equal to 1.0256 pounds sterling. In 1927, the Palestine Cur-



A 1942 100-mils Palestine coin was struck on a .720 fine silver planchet and depicts a seven-leaf olive sprig on the obverse, intended to recall the seven-frond palm tree on the coins of ancient Jerusalem as well as the seven branches of the menorah in the Temple in Jerusalem.

rency Board was established in London, and issued coins and bank notes denominated in Palestinian Pounds (which were equal to the British standard pound sterling)

Coins were issued in bronze 1 and 2 mils, cupronickel 5, 10, and 20 mils, and silver 50 and 100 mils (a gold pound was authorized but never minted).

A 100 mils coin was equal to one-tenth pound, and contained 0.27 ounces of actual silver in a .720 fine planchet.

The 100 mils coin was of a finer silver than its British florin equivalent, which was struck on a .500 fine planchet and contained .1818 ounces actual silver.

The obverse of the 100 mils coins has a seven-leaf olive sprig, reminiscent of the seven-leaf palm tree on coins of Roman Judaea, and the seven-branched candelabra (menora) that resided in the Temple.

The dates are shown in Western and Arabic numerals, with

the territory's name in English, Arabic, and Hebrew.

The Hebrew legend contains an extra inscription which stands for Eretz Land of Israel, the Jewish name for the territory.

The reverse simply has the denomination in Western and Arabic numerals inside a circle, with English, Hebrew and Arabic text noting the denomination that encircles the center of the coin's reverse.

San Remo Conference

In February 1920, during the post-World War reparation talks, the victorious Allies agreed to put southern Palestine under a British mandate.

Two months later, in San Remo, Italy, the Allies incorporated the 1917 Balfour Declaration into the treaty, formally recognizing Britain's obligation to establish a Jewish national home in Palestine, and which

Continued

BRITISH APPOINT COMMISSIONER

Continued

was not to prejudice the rights of non-Jews in Palestine or Jews living outside Palestine.

At that time, Palestine spread out from both sides of the Jordan River, and included its source in the Golan Heights.

The British appointed Sir Herbert Samuel, a Brit-

ish Jew, as High Commissioner, and the Jews soon created their own national council called Va'ad Leumi.

The Arabs created a national congress in Damascus, but when Syria came under French rule, that was disbanded. No attempt was made to form a similar Arab ruling council in British Palestine.

A 1929 Dutch Zionist Association medal shown above depicts on the obverse a religious Jew (wearing a talit or prayer shawl) greeting a secular Jew (holding a hammer as symbol of industry) between two sheaves of wheat with clusters of grapes behind them. At the bottom are the Jewish dates in Western numerals 3830-5680 (70 to 1920), representing the begin and end dates of the Jewish exile, from the destruction of Jerusalem to the San Remo Conference.

The reverse has a hexagram or Magen Shield of David with Zion in the center, surrounded by twelve shields emblematic



A medal issued by the Dutch Zionist Association in 1929 depicts religious and secular Jews meeting on the obverse, at left above. The religious Jew wears a talit or prayer shawl and the secular Jew is shown as a worker carrying a hammer and is symbolic of industry.

of the original twelve tribes.

Around is the inscription "if I forget thee, Jerusalem" (from Psalm 137:5) at top and below is the date of the treaty in Hebrew, Iyar 6, 5680 (April 24, 1920 CE). The letter ה' heh, which here stands for 5,000, is unusually large, probably because it is frequently used as an abbreviation for God's name.

The sequence of the letters for the year is not the normal one (highest to lowest value), but instead spell out to be fertile, and is used as an amulet against the Evil Eye (based on Genesis 49:22).

Hagana

The most shameful aspect of the Mandate period was the outright refusal of the British to protect Jews from Arab predation. Many have attributed this to Judeophobia, but the British used a similar "divide and conquer" strategy throughout their

Continued

CONFERENCE FORMALIZES STATUS

Continued

Empire by exacerbating existing conflicts between different indigenous groups so the natives would not rise up against them.

In Palestine, the High Commissioner appointed Amin al-Husseini as Grand Mufti, even though Husseini had been jailed for encouraging attacks on Jews, and who spent most of World War Two in Berlin as a guest of the Third Reich. Since the Jews were in a better position to manage the territory without British assistance, the British consistently sided with the Arabs.

To protect their people and interests, the Jews founded militias.

While under Turk rule, Jewish settlements had hired local Bedouin or Circassian guards.

The first Jewish militia was HaShomer (the Guard), founded in 1909, which soon replaced the gentile guards with its own members.

During World War I, many HaShomer members joined the Jewish Legion. The British quickly demobilized the Jewish Legion in 1919.

The boundary between French and British Palestine underwent many changes.

In 1920, Arabs protesting against French rule attacked Jewish settlements north of Lake Kinneret, most notably Tel Khay (Hill of Life).

Kibbutz Tel Khay had been founded in 1918 as an extension of Metulla. The Jews evacuated Metulla before the Arabs

arrived, but stood firm at Tel Khay. The Arabs overran the kibbutz, killing eight defenders.

As the attacks spread south, the Zionist Organization reorganized and expanded HaShomer into the Hagana (of Defense), which reported to the Jewish labor organization Histadrut.

The Hagana suffered from internal conflicts in addition to fighting off hostile Arabs all while the British were moving to seize their weapons.

Then, in 1929, widespread attacks by Arabs on Jews galvanized the Hagana, and the organization was placed directly under the Jewish Agency in 1931.

A contribution receipt shows the roaring lion monument to the fallen defenders of Tel Khay that had been dedicated in 1934. The top inscription is "Year 25 of the Defense of Tel-Khay."

Below the picture is "Working Youth Agricultural Training Group," the dates also in Hebrew for 11 Adar 5680 – 11 Adar 5705 (March 1, 1920 – February 24, 1945 CE), and the amount of the donation, 30 mil. Going up the left side is "United Printing, Tel Aviv."

HaNoar HaOved the Working Youth was founded in 1924 by the Histadrut, then parent organization to the Hagana.

Transjordan

Following World War I, the British were not satisfied with expanding their man-

Continued

IDF HAD MODEST BEGINNING

Continued

date into what was to have been international territory; they set their sights on pushing the French out of Syria.

The Muslim Arab Husseini family had ruled over the holy cities of Mecca and Medina for nine centuries. In 1916, they agreed to fight alongside the British against their Turkish masters.

Prince Faisal headed an army that helped the British push the Turks out of Syria in 1918, and was proclaimed King of Syria by an Arab parliament in 1920.

Faisal met with Chaim Weizmann from the Zionist Organization and agreed to allow Jewish settlement in the Holy Land, which he called "southern Syria."

The French, however, insisted that the British honor the Sykes-Picot Agreement and expelled Faisal later that year. Faisal's brother Abdullah then gathered an army to invade Syria.

Winston Churchill brokered an agreement to placate the Husseini faction. Faisal was declared King of Iraq, where he banned anti-Jewish discrimination.

Abdullah was made Emir of the Transjordan, the lands of Palestine east of the Jordan River (though officially ruled by the High Commissioner in Jerusalem).

The British grant of nearly 80 percent of their mandate in Palestine to Arabs, with the provision that Jews would not be allowed to live



The obverse of a medal honoring Vladimir Jabotinsky reveals a stern portrait, suggestive of a man who did not shy away from action.

there, angered many Jews.

Vladimir Jabotinsky, who had led the Jewish battalions in the British army, founded the Revisionist Party in 1925, which called for the reestablishment of a Jewish fighting force to protect Jews from growing Arab violence, and for a plan of rapid mass settlement of Jews on both sides of the Jordan River.

Jabotinsky did not like the cautious approach of the Zionist Organization, and encouraged Revisionists to act on their own. This action led to censure by the Zionist Organization, and the Revisionists split to form their own New Zionist Organization in 1935 with Jabotinsky as President.

During World War II, Jabotinsky proposed the formation of a Jewish Army to fight the Nazis.

This was partially realized in the formation of the British Jewish Fighting Brigade in 1944, after Jabotinsky's death.

The Revisionist militia,

Continued

FARMERS PROTECTED LAND, FAMILIES

Continued

known as the Irgun or Etzel, rejoined the World Zionist Organization in 1946.

After independence, they formed the Herut party, which today is part of the Likud coalition.

The Revisionists issued a 28mm copper-nickel medal with loop in 1948 for their hundreds of members who had been imprisoned by the British in East Africa starting in 1944.

One side shows the logo of the party, a hand holding a rifle superimposed over a map of all of British Palestine (including Transjordan). The motto is "Only Thus!" The other side shows a British prison compound with barbed wire and guard tower. It has the legend "Sign of Imprisonment."

Rise of Anti-Semitism

Interestingly, the call for a new Jewish state got some support by the Jews' worst enemies, who saw this future state as a dumping ground for their local Jewish populations.

It also helped justify the campaigns to attack the loyalty of their Jewish neighbors.

Wilhelm Marr considered the term Judeophobe, or Jew-Hater, too crude, so in 1879 he coined the term anti-Semite when founding the Antisemitenbund (Anti-Semite League) in Germany.

The term "Semite" derives from the Biblical character Shem, an ancestor of Israel, and refers to a language group (now gen-



An early 20th-century photograph of a farmer protecting his land and the members of his community in the land that will become the future state of Israel.

erally called the Afro-Asiatic group) that includes Hebrew, Aramaic, Arabic, and Amharic.

The anti-Semites believe that the white race is superior to the colored races and is destined to take over the world.

The Semites (Jews) are inferior, but through their clannishness and mass conspiracies, are able to secretly rule the Aryans.

These paranoid theories had been originally developed in the early 19th century by anthropologists and had already been debunked and renounced by their developers when the Anti-Semite League was founded.

While Judeophobe is a proper term for anyone who is prejudiced against the Jews, the term anti-Semite is widely used

Continued

HEROIC DEFENSE OF KIBBUTZ

Continued

today, particularly in North America, where it likely is not well known that the Anti-Semite League was one of the forerunners of the German Nazi party.

While Czarist Russia openly supported anti-Semitism, the anti-Semite parties in Germany had only a small representation in parliament until the 1920s.

The German defeat in World War One and onerous reparation costs imposed by the Allies traumatized the German economy and national psyche.

The real villains were the German generals who had assured the people in 1914 that victory would come quickly, and when it didn't, vetoed attempts by the civil government to negotiate peace.

However, a deeply ingrained respect for the German military shunted aside the pressure to sue for peace, and the far easier route to blame the Jews was taken, who after all, were represented on both sides of the war.

Anti-Semitism was not restricted to Germany, of course.

The rise of a Judeophobic government in Poland was the primary impetus for the Fourth Aliya (1924 to 1929), when 80,000 Jews



A memorial to kibbutz Tel Khai honors the heroic 1917 defense of the community. Shown above is a contribution receipt with the roaring lion atop the memorial.

came to Palestine (though 20,000 moved on to other countries).

The reparations for the Great War nearly destroyed the German and Austrian economies. **Next:**

War's full horror unleashed



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LEFT: Emile Zola, *jeton* (attached loop), 1898, 22.5 mm;
 ABOVE: Alfred Dreyfus, medal, circa 1910 28.5 mm;
 RIGHT: Theodore Herzl on obverse of Keren Hayesod United Israel Appeal medal.

The Souls of Conscience

Shocked by the unjust conviction of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, writers Theodore Herzl and Emile Zola ignite revolutions

The facts are clear today. But more than a century ago, facts were suppressed, truth subverted in the swift court martial of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus for espionage.

The 1894 conviction of French army captain Alfred Dreyfus for selling military secrets to the Germans divided France and almost destroyed the Republic while lighting the path for one of the founders of modern Israel.

The Dreyfus Affair, as it is known today, is a riveting account of the railroading of an honorable soldier

castigated and convicted, in part, upon spurious or fabricated evidence, and almost entirely because he happened to be Jewish.

With multiple courts martial, leaked "new" documents, the suicide of a prominent forger of military documents and the long suffering of an innocent man and his family, the Dreyfus Affair lasted more than a decade.

Convicted in a military court soaked to the core in anti-Semitism, which other military leaders fanned into conflagrations from vineyards to

Dreyfus convicted of espionage, sent to Devil's Island

Continued

Paris boulevards, Dreyfus was sentenced to life imprisonment and shipped to Devil's Island off the coast of French Guiana.

Although located in the Caribbean, Devil's Island was no paradise.

The island's 35 acres of jungle-choked humidity was located six miles off the coast of French Guiana.

"Cells" on the island were actually six rude huts placed apart from each other in the jungle.

There was no contact with the outside world, and few of the amenities of civilized life. Rarely were all of the huts occupied.

Devil's Island prison wasn't on the island; the island was the prison.

Dreyfus, whose military record had been exemplary, protested his innocence as did his family for years following his 1894 conviction. Few listened, their voices drowned out by a larger cacaphony of anti-Semitic hysteria sweeping through France.

Then, in 1896, newly discovered evidence appeared, which indicated strongly that Dreyfus was innocent. The new evidence incriminated another French army officer, Maj. Ferdinand Walsin-Esterhazy.

But when tried in a court martial in January 1899, Esterhazy was acquitted. Dreyfus remained incarcerated.

Outrage grew at the transparent injustice, fed by fears of loss of the Republic to military rule.



Theodore Herzl



A drawing from a French postcard circa 1906 of Captain Alfred Dreyfus languishing in his rude prison hut on Devil's Island, French Guiana. Below, the obverse of the official Israel 2010 150th anniversary medal commemorating Theodore Herzl's birth.



The fear was one of many coursing through France at the time.

As the date for the start of the 1894 trial of Dreyfus had approached, France became awash in anti-Semitic literature, posters and ever-growing public protests against "the Jews."

Posters appeared on Paris streets, depicting Dreyfus as a many-headed Hydra. The implication: Cut him down, and other Jews will fill his shoes to wreak havoc on the French

Continued

Revelation hits Herzl amidst cries of "Death to Jews"



Image of Labori jeton above, Rosenblum Coins
Image of Mercier medal, Top right and right, Stack's

Above, left: Jeton, no date, of Dreyfus defense attorney Fernand-Gustave-Gaston Labori. Cyrillic legend names Labori. (Jeton obverse with Emile Zola appears at beginning of story.) Above, right: Medal, obverse, of War Minister Gen. Auguste Mercier, the judge in the 1894 court martial that convicted Alfred Dreyfus of espionage. Medal issued 1906 after exoneration of Dreyfus. Mercier's medal states Dreyfus is a "traitor" despite exoneration. Struck by Janvier-Duval; triangle edgemark. Sold by "National Subscription."



Continued

nation. This campaign gained noisy and sometimes violent traction despite the previous century's relative comity toward Jews initiated by Napoleon Bonaparte.

But the street riots and vitriol spewing from previously sane Frenchmen convinced one onlooker that accommodation would never work for Jews.

The uproar over Dreyfus - with street mobs chanting "Death to the Jews!" - transformed Theodore Herzl into a confirmed Zionist, Herzl later

said.

According to the Jewish Virtual Library online, "Herzl resolved that there was only one solution: the mass immigration of Jews to a land that they could call their own ... the Dreyfus Case became one of the determinants in the genesis of Political Zionism.

"Herzl concluded that anti-Semitism was a stable and immutable factor in human society, which assimilation did not solve ... (and) despite ridicule from Jewish leaders, published *Der Judenstaat* (*The Jew-*

Continued

Exonerated, fully rehabilitated, Dreyfus returns to duty



Above, central part of 1906 postcard celebrating the rehabilitation of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus to full military authority and responsibility. Dreyfus had just received his sword and Captain's rank.

Above, right: A 1929 gilt bronze medal of Georges Clemenceau, future French premiere and owner of "L'Aurore" newspaper in which Zola published his revolutionary tract, "J'Accuse."



Continued

ish State, 1896)."

Herzl's writings would prove prophetic in the proclamation of the necessity of founding a nation for and by Jews.

The power of words to galvanize people to act also germinated among the gentiles of France who were appalled by their country's de-evolution into injustice and fear-mongering.

In the days following Esterhazy's acquittal, French novelist Émile Zola wrote a letter, "J'Accuse," attacking the army's leadership for covering up its unjust conviction of Dreyfus and the rampant anti-Semitism they had unleashed in France.

Zola's letter appeared in Georges Clemenceau's newspaper "L'Aurore."

Zola's anger did not block him from writing clearly, ripping into populist sentiment:

"Dreyfus knows several languages, crime; one found at his place no compromising papers, crime; he

returns sometimes to his country of origin, crime; he is industrious, crime; he is unperturbed, crime; he is perturbed, crime ..."

Zola's excoriation of the half-baked, the deluded, the racist and the outright criminal elements joining forces in a very real threat to the French Republic.

Zola's epistle effortlessly concluded with "The truth is on the march."

Zola's letter may have saved the French Republic. Herzl's realization and subsequent work was instrumental in the creation of the nation of Israel.

After receiving exoneration and full rehabilitation, Dreyfus served with great distinction in the army that had almost destroyed him, his family and his country.

Dreyfus rose to lieutenant-colonel and served in World War I, ultimately earning the rank of Officer of the Legion of Honor. Dreyfus retired to the quiet obscurity of a good soldier and died peacefully at home at age 75 on July 12, 1935.

BOXER, HERO, CHAMP, ZIONIST

BARNEY ROSS
HONORED
ON LATEST MEDAL
FROM
THE JEWISH-AMERICAN
HALL OF FAME.

*MEDAL SCULPTED BY
EUGENE DAUB*



A combat hero in World War II, Barney Ross also was the first boxer to hold three world titles at the same time (World Lightweight and Junior Welterweight Champion 1933-1935 and World Welterweight Champion in 1934 and 1935-1938).

A medal honoring this great Jewish American has been sculpted by noted artist Eugene Daub.

The high relief Barney Ross medals, approximately two inches in size, are available in limited editions of bronze (priced at \$35), pure silver (\$125), and gold-plated silver (\$185) from The Jewish-American Hall of Fame, 5189 Jeffdale Ave., Woodland Hills, CA 91364. To order a Ross medal, or for further information write to the

Jewish-American Hall of Fame or call (818) 225-1348.

Dov-Ber Rasofsky was born in Chicago on Dec. 23, 1909.

When he was a 14-year old rabbinical student, his father — a rabbi — died in his arms after being shot in a robbery.

The tragic death caused his mother Sarah to suffer a nervous breakdown. As a result, his three younger siblings were placed in an orphanage or farmed out to other members of the extended family.

Dov and his two older brothers were left to their own devices.

He began running around with local toughs, developing into a street brawler and small-time thief -- he was even employed by Al Capone.

Dov's goal was to earn enough

Continued

ROSS NEVER QUIT, NEVER KO'D

Continued

money to buy a home so that he could reunite his family ... and he eventually realized boxing could be the vehicle to that success.

He changed his name to Barney Ross.

And with his new name, he went on to become a Golden Gloves champion and eventually to dominate the lighter professional divisions, earning the sobriquet "The Pride of the Ghetto."

At a time—the late 1920s and '30s—when rising Nazism was using propaganda to spread virulently anti-Jewish philosophy, Ross was seen by American Jews as one of their greatest advocates.

Ross was known as a smart fighter with great stamina ... and was never knocked out in his career.

Barney Ross has been inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame, the World Boxing Hall of Fame, the Chicagoland Sports Hall of Fame, the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame, and the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

In his early thirties, after his boxing career had ended, Ross joined the United States Marine Corps.

The Marines wanted to keep him Stateside and use his celebrity status to boost morale.

Most of the athletes of the era like heavyweight champion Jack



A black and white photograph of Barney Ross, date uncertain but post-boxing career, and likely during his volunteer work, circa 1948, gathering signatures and support to create the modern state of Israel.

Dempsey had ceremonial roles in the military, but Ross insisted on **fighting for his country.**

The Marines are not known for denying a leatherneck the opportunity to die in combat for his country.

Ross was sent to Guadalcanal in the South Pacific, where one night, he and three other stretcher bearers along with a wounded man and two soldiers were trapped under enemy fire.

All his fellow Marines were wounded, as was Ross, but he was **the only one able to fight.**

Ross gathered his comrades' rifles and grenades and single-handedly fought nearly two dozen Japanese soldiers, killing them all by morning.

Two of the Marines had died in the battle, but Ross carried the remaining man on his shoulders

Continued

ROSS NEVER QUIT, NEVER KO'D

Continued

to safety even though he outweighed Ross by nearly 100 pounds.

For his heroism in combat, Ross was awarded two Purple Hearts and America's third highest military honor, the Silver Star.

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving with a Marine Battalion in Guadalcanal Nov. 18-20, 1942," is inscribed on Ross' Jewish-American Hall of Fame medal.

The depictions of the Silver Star medal and inscription are joined with his own words:

"The night I spent in that shell hole with five wounded leather-necks and two soldiers was by all odds the toughest round I've ever slugged through."

During his recovery at the hospital from his wounds he had received, Ross developed a habit for the morphine administered for pain.

Back in the States, the morphine became a heroin habit. Ross went to a recovery center and beat his addiction, he gave lectures to high school students about the dangers of drug addiction.

Ross' boxing career, World War II heroics, subsequent drug addiction and recovery were depicted in the 1957 film, "Monkey on My Back."



The reverse of the Barney Ross medal now available from The Jewish-American Hall of Fame is inscribed with the legend from his Silver Star, awarded for "conspicuous gallantry" in one of the most brutal battles of World War II - Guadalcanal.

Early in 1948, Barney Ross signed up more than 2,000 volunteers to fight for the creation of a Jewish state, but the State Department refused to issue them passports.

Ross went on to raise money for the cause and even helped arrange for armaments to be sent to the Irgun.

When Ross died at the age of 57, his obituary in *The New York Times* noted: "A student of the Talmud who turned to prizefighting, Barney Ross was regarded as one of the toughest champions.

"Outside of the ring, moreover, his heroism on Guadalcanal and his victory over a narcotics habit brought him further recognition as a man who had never been knocked

FRIEDENBERG WINS ODESSER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION IN JUDAIC NUMISMATICS

By Mel Wacks

Daniel Friedenberg, former Curator of Coins and Medals at The Jewish Museum in New York City and a contributor to "The Shekel," has won the 2010 Ben & Sylvia Odesser Memorial Award for Outstanding Contribution in Judaic Numismatics.

Friedenberg was presented the honor, with a commemorative plaque, at the annual banquet of the Token and Medal Society (TAMS) held during the American Numismatic Association's 2010 "World's Fair of Money" convention in Boston Aug. 10 to 14.

The Ben & Sylvia Odesser Memorial Award for Outstanding Contribution in Judaic Numismatics is presented by TAMS jointly with AINA.

Friedenberg was honored for his series of "Sasanian Jewry and its Culture," a series of articles that appeared in "The Shekel." The articles are a brief review of selections from his newly published book *Sasanian Jewry and Its Culture—A Lexicon of Jewish and Related Seals* (University of Illinois Press).

Friedenberg is the author of several standard Judaic numismatic references—*Great Jewish Portraits in Metal* (editor), *Jewish Medals from the Renaissance to the Fall of Napoleon*, and *Jewish Minters & Medalists*.

His historical novel *Tiberius Julius Alexander* relates the tale of a loyal Roman soldier who was the second in command during the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 C.E. In the novel, Tiberius Alexander also was the son of a pious Jew who was a generous



Images courtesy Dr. Ira Rezak

Daniel Friedenberg portrayed in a medal by Marika Somogyi. The Hebrew word is "chazak" or strong.

contributor to that same Temple.

Friedenberg was Curator of Coins and Medals at The Jewish Museum in New York for many years. The Museum houses the collection of about 700 portrait medals and plaques acquired (and many commissioned) by his father, Samuel Friedenberg.

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SCOURGE OF
THE JEWS,
RESTORER
OF EMPIRE!
FEAR ME, ALL!

FOR I AM
THE ONE, TRUE
EMPEROR
OF THE
ETERNAL CITY,
ROME

I
AM

VESPASIAN

I am Vespasian, scourge of the Jews, rescuer of Rome, savior of the Empire, a power to behold! I am an emperor for all to fear! I am Vespasian. I am the conqueror of nations, the salvation of the

Empire.

I am Vespasian. I have outlasted pretenders to the Purple, ousted many lesser men as well, and I have marched my Legions to Rome to claim the throne.

Continued

GALBA! ASSASSINS WILL FIND YOU BEFORE YOU REACH ROME



All images courtesy Goldberg Coins, Millenia Collection

Previous page: Bronze sestertius of Vespasian, Rome mint, c. 71 CE. One of the finest known, sold for \$180,000 in Goldberg Coin's auction of The Millennia Collection in May 2008. Obverse, Vespasian, laureate. Reverse: Velied Jewess seated beneath palm, mourning. Above, Galba, AR denarius, struck late 68 CE; reverse, Victory on globe, left.

Continued

I am Vespasian, emperor of all lands and people ruled by Rome, the world's greatest military power!

And my coins tell my story. Perhaps, two millennia from now, collectors will only be interested in the reverses of my *Judaea Capta* coins, marking my massive victories in the east.

But it is their loss if they totally ignore my portrait!

It was no easy feat, becoming Emperor of Rome in 69 C.E. From the time that Nero died in 68, there were four contenders for the throne, in quick succession – Clodius Macer, Galba, Otho

and Vitellius.

But Macer was executed by Galba's orders. Galba was assassinated in a conspiracy led by Otho.

Otho, poor Otho, some say. Former husband to the teen Poppeia, who was stolen from him by Nero, then, a defenseless woman, beaten to death by the madman.

Otho committed suicide, he had no choice, and the forces of Vitellius were defeated by my own legions when I was age 60.

The war in *Judaea* was soon prosecuted with my eldest son and heir, Titus, in command of the Roman

Continued

VITELLIUS: YOU, EMPEROR? I THINK NOT



All images courtesy Goldberg Coins, Millenia Collection
Silver denarius of Vitellius, who ruled briefly in 69 CE, and struck that year in the Rome mint. Obverse has Vitellius, laureate, right. The reverse depicts a tripod, a symbol of victory pre-dating ancient Greek culture, and the lebes or bowl, surmounted by a dolphin with a raven beneath. As noted in Goldberg Coin's *Millenia Collection* catalogue, this particular coin has a sympathetic portrait of an emperor whose chief characteristic was gluttony.

Continued

forces.

Titus, my son, brought the war to a dramatic end in 70, with the destruction of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem.

The cost of this long war and the civil war in Rome was enormous in lives . . . more than a million died in Jerusalem, including a few Romans.

And I inherited a Roman treasury with a deficit of ten million denari!

Roman coinage had been sporadic previously . . . minted as required to pay troops, feed the masses, with no regular annual output of gold, silver or bronze coinage.

Lack of specie resulted in gaps of aurei and denarii, but more critically of bronzes, which were not minted for a 10-year period under Augustus before 10 C.E., under Tiberius for a decade before 34, and again under Nero from 54 to 64 C.E.

But in my reign and thereafter coinage was issued on a regular and orderly basis. An empire needs coins.

Millions of coins - to pay for vast legions, to pay for grain from Egypt to feed Roman citizens who look to me to feed them and entertain them.

Continued

OTHO! GLUTTON! CUCKOLD! FEAST UNTIL DEATH!



All coin images courtesy Goldberg Coins, Millennia Collection

Otho, the former husband of Poppeia (who was taken from him by Emperor Nero, and then beaten to death by the psychopathic Nero in a fit of rage), was cuckolded twice, doing nothing to avenge her murder. Considered effeminate by the Praetorian Guard, Otho ruled for three months - January to April 69 CE - before committing suicide after his legions were routed by the advancing Vitellius.

Continued

My coin portraits are engraved by a staff of sculptors at the Rome mint.

To keep the variations between likenesses at a minimum, my official profile likeness is available in the mint as a model to follow by the die engravers.

While the portraits on the gold and silver coins are often lacking in detail due to the small space, the full talents of the artists can be seen on the large bronze denominations, such as the sestertius.

On the sestertius, you can see a realistic portrait in high relief.

There is nothing flattering in the close-cut hair, finely wrinkled brow, large nose and the of an old man.

But this is a direct image of Vespasian, and there is beauty still in the realism and technical details of my portrait.

I ruled for a decade. This bronze can be dated to 71 C.E., the third year of my consulship (see *COS III* at the end of the coin's obverse legend).

Look upon my portrait and wonder. Look upon my portrait and give thanks to the Gods that I was not your enemy. If I was your enemy,

Continued

TITUS, MY SON, YOU ARE THE NEXT EMPEROR!

*BE BRUTAL, EFFICIENT,
CRUSH ALL REBELLION!*



A gold aureus of Titus, destroyer of Jerusalem and son of Vespasian, struck around 73 CE. Below, a gold aureus of his father Vespasian, struck around 68 CE.

Images Courtesy Goldberg Coins, Millennia Collection

Continued



*Story by Mel Wacks,
Edited by Andrew Perala*

pray to the Gods to save you, because no mortal could save you or your lands from us, the rulers of the world, the rulers of Rome and all beneath her.

Yes, remember all!

Remember me.

Remember my rule, my empire, my greatness.

My image is on millions of coins. They will last for millenia.

They will remind all of what I have done.

I am Vespasian. I returned order to the Roman Empire! ☞

THE FIRST JEWISH-AMERICAN EMPEROR

JOSHUA ABRAHAM NORTON

By Donald Kagin, Ph.D.

There are few historical figures more intriguing than that of Joshua Norton, a prominent 19th century business man turned eminent eccentric, and, self-proclaimed, the first Jewish Emperor.

"Presiding" over San Francisco in the years following the Gold Rush, Norton is today known best by his self-assumed title as "Norton I, Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico."

The notes (actually bonds) that he printed and sold over several decades are a longer lasting tribute to a significant figure from the frontier of the American West.



The self-styled Emperor Norton I, who claimed sovereignty over the western U.S. and Mexico from San Francisco, where he issued a series of paper notes, currency of the realm.

The Early History

Born in London in the aftermath of the French revolution and the resulting Napoleonic Wars, the infant Joshua Abraham Norton (1818 to 1880) became one of the pioneer Jews in South Africa when his father, John Norton, relocated to Cape Town in 1820.

With the execution of Louis XVI and other members of the French royal family during the revolution, rumors of missing heirs to the French throne were common.

In a particular mental quirk, the young boy grew up believing he was one, hidden for safety within

Continued

NORTON A CHILDHOOD BELIEVER

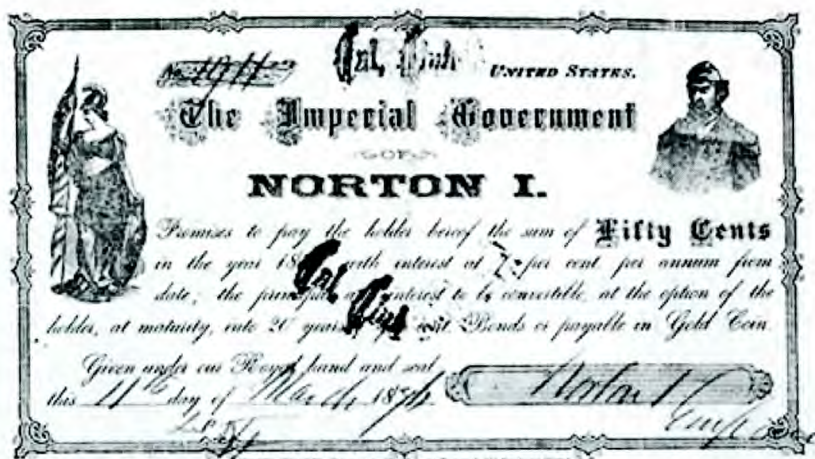


Image courtesy Kagin's

A 50-cent note, or bond, issued by the "Imperial Government of Norton I" in March 1876.

Continued

a Jewish family.

Years later, in 1886, Norton revealed this long-kept "secret" to a South African friend in San Francisco. Norton told him that he was "a crown prince to the throne of France." In memory of his not-so-humble origins, Norton carried a silver 1828 Bourbon franc until his dying day.

An undistinguished stint as a shopkeeper and the death of his father inspired Joshua Norton to use his inheritance to build a fortune elsewhere than South Africa.

He caught gold fever and arrived in San Francisco in November 1849, where he promptly became a commission merchant. Few could judge the market for goods when ships arrived from varied

cargoes, sought out buyers, and sold the merchandise for a percentage of the sale price.

Norton's profits went into real estate, and soon he had control over three of four corners at the intersection of Sansome and Jackson Streets.

A rice mill, the first in the city to hull the grain, grew on one; a cigar factory, which turned cheaply-imported tobacco into a saleable product, sprouted on the second; and an office building opened on the third.

Norton's water lots – purchased with the hope that encroaching bayfill would make them the city's new waterfront – in the meantime held the abandoned brig *Genesee*. As the great sidewheel steamers of

Continued

EMPEROR NEVER GAVE UP THRONE



Image courtesy Kagin's

The self-styled Emperor Norton I, who claimed sovereignty over the western U.S. and Mexico from San Francisco, where he issued a series of paper notes, currency of the realm.

Continued

the Pacific Mail Steamship Company docked semi-monthly next to this small two-master, Norton wisely made it into a store-ship.

Growing wealth and prominence led to Norton's participation in civic affairs. In the summer of 1851, noted business leaders formed a Committee of Vigilance to suppress crime. Norton was member No. 339, but he abhorred summary justice. His persuasiveness and devotion to civil rights convinced the Committee to allow the accused to present a defense.

Joshua Norton's educated demeanor, wealth and business skill made him an esteemed member of San Francisco society. When talk turned to politics, Norton de-

fended the English monarchy and declared, "If I were Emperor of the United States, you would see changes."

His friends quickly dubbed him "Emperor," but Norton actually was not joking. Later, he decided his reign had begun in 1852.

That year also brought him financial disaster. In December, in an effort to corner the rice market, Norton bid 12.5 cents a pound for a recently arrived cargo of then scarce rice.

But within days, ship after ship glutted the market with excess rice, reducing the selling price to 3 cents.

Not only did Norton initially lose money, but the business depression of 1854, the financial panic of 1855, combined with long legal battles over the rice contracts and avaricious bankers drained his resources entirely. Fewer and fewer commissions came his way, and in 1856, 1857, and 1858, Norton declared bankruptcy.

Apparently depressed, Norton exited from society. He reappeared, however, on Sept. 17, 1859, when he delivered a document to the San Francisco Evening Bulletin.

Now a self-styled savior for the ills of society, Norton announced "the peremptory request of a large majority of citizens of these

Continued

NORTON'S NOTES EXTREMELY RARE

 PAPER MONEY GUARANTEE	California, San Francisco U.S. Imperial Gov't 50 Cent November 14, 1874	30 Very Fine
	S/N 2057 Payable In Gold Coin Emperor Norton Note	

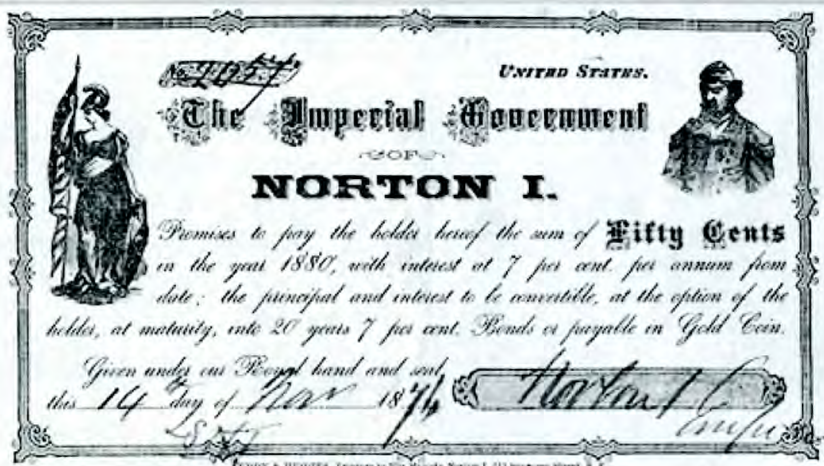


Image courtesy Kagin's

"Emperor" Norton's 50-cent note of Nov. 14, 1874, guaranteed payment in gold coin. This example, graded Very Fine 30 by Paper Money Guarantee, is one of just 35 known to survive.

Continued

United States. I, Joshua Norton ... declare and proclaim myself Emperor of these U.S."

Norton called a convention to be held Feb. 1, 1860, in order to "ameliorate the evils under which the country is laboring, and thereby cause confidence to exist, both at home and abroad, in our stability."

From then on, he was Norton I. Imperial edicts continued to flow:

"In order to give weight, Precedence and legality to our Orders," Norton proclaimed on June 10, 1862, "We do hereby Command the Leaders of the Hebrew, Catholic and Protestant Churches to sanctify and have us Crowned Emperor the U.S. of America and

Protector of Mexico."

While one may say he was a bit delusional, in other areas Norton was prescient, suggesting the bridging of San Francisco Bay as well as tunneling beneath it; two ideas which came to fruition long after his death in the building of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and the Transbay Tube of the city's BART subway.

As emperor, Norton I advocated religious and social tolerance. "Religion is like a beautiful garden," he declared, as he worked in 1871 for, "the establishment of a Universal Religion."

The next year, Norton "Hereby prohibit[ed] the enforcement of the Sunday Law," since it discrim-

Continued

GRANDEUR ASIDE, NORTON EGALITARTIAN



Image courtesy Kagin's

A 50-cent note, or bond, issued by the "Imperial Government of Norton I" in March 1876.

Continued

inated against Germans and Jews.

Norton also was an early advocate of racial integration. As the post-Civil War fight for school integration heated up in the mid-1870s, he reasoned, "Whereas the American nation having acknowledged the citizenship of the colored people, their children are entitled to admission in the public schools."

Norton I's Treasury Bonds

Though Norton was welcomed by most everyone, his Imperial Treasury remained sparse. Granted free lunches, gratis transportations, and admission to shows and lectures, coupled with taxation through Imperial bonds, allowed Norton to meet his daily needs.

These "Bonds of Empire" are unique. In the 1860's, when President Abraham Lincoln undertook to circulate greenbacks during the Civil War, Californians disdained them, paying as low as 38 cents in gold for \$1 in paper.

In contrast, Norton was the first to successfully circulate a paper money that found immediate acceptance – with no discount – among gold-loving San Franciscans.

Norton issued the first note in late June 1869. Between January 1870 and 1876, printers Cuddy & Hughes created three designs for the Emperor's popular 50-cent bond. All showed the Emperor and paid seven percent interest, collectible in 1880. Some have an inked "seal" most likely made

Continued

NORTON SOUGHT UNIVERSAL RELIGION

Continued
from a coin.

The earliest 50-cent note to survive carries the date Nov. 11, 1870. Printed in bright red, it shows a large Columbia in front of a San Francisco scene. A dog, presumably Norton's second one, Lazarus, lies next to a safe.

From 1877 to 1880, Charles A. Murdock was Norton's preferred printer.

In the almost 10 years of his self-proclaimed reign, Norton issued more than 3,000 Bonds of Empire.

Today, we know of only 35 specimens.

While retaining the 1860s cut of the Emperor on the left, Murdock added the California State seal to the right. Murdock saved the empire money when he reduced the rate of interest from seven to five percent.

When the 1870s bonds matured in January 1880, Murdock and the Emperor solved a possible embarrassment by rolling them over at reduced interest.

On the day he died, January 8, 1880, Emperor Norton issued 50-cent bond No. 3042, payable in 1890, at only 4 percent.

Emperor Norton I was also a mason, a member of the drinking society e Clampus Vitus, and widely beloved. When he died,



Image courtesy Kagin's

Norton's walking stick also functioned as a royal scepter.

some 10,000 people turned out for his funeral.

Since Norton's death, his 50-cent Imperial bonds tend to bring more than \$20,000 at auction.

Norton's Empire was illusory, but he was not as mad as some thought.

Norton's advocacy for tolerance towards others, as well as his advocacy for religious and racial equality remains a powerful legacy for the first Jewish Emperor. 

Dr. Robert Chandler contributed essential information to this story.

PROFILE:

AINA's Freeman plays the piper

Louis Freeman was born in San Francisco but grew up in El Centro, a town just 10 miles from California's border with Mexico.

After finishing high school, Louis headed back north to San Francisco where he embarked on a varied career.

After a short time in the military, landing a job as a privy keeper for the original Renaissance Faires led to his introduction to the wide world of bagpipes.

A self-taught musician, Louis has been playing the pipes on the street for more than 30 years, identifying himself as the "busking piper."

A wide range of coins he received for playing sparked his interest in numismatic collecting.

With a "seasonal" job as a union trade show installer, Louis has the days to pursue his multiple hobbies and time to spoil his wife of 14 years, Susan.

Although Louis is one of AINA's newer members, he has been a collector for many years.

He describes his collection as eclectic, ranging from Mandate-era mils to early Israeli prutahs, later lira, old and new agorot, and sheqalim.

He wants to continue to expand his collection by adding some paper notes.

His collection also contains British Empire and Commonwealth issues including all official Edward VIII issues, coins from East and West Africa, Fiji, New Guinea and Panama.

Louis loves to scrounge through junk boxes at coin shows looking for what he refers to as "not round" coins: coins in the shape of squares, hexagons, heptagons, octagons, and more.

His collecting interests also include odd denominations such as 1/2-farthings, 1/4-cents, 1 1/4-centismos and Commemorative coins.

Interesting silver rounds fill out his collection with commemoratives of the 50th anniversary of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and the Golden Gate Bridge.

Written by Donna J. Sims, NLG



Louis Freeman

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AKKO



Recorded in Babylonian and Egyptian sources, the city of Akko on the Mediterranean Coast in northern Israel, has a 4,000-year-old history, one of the longest in the world. Many historical conquerors have passed through the city, each one leaving its imprint: the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Crusaders, Mamluks, Ottomans, British, until the City became incorporated in the State of Israel.

Today, Akko is a museum of archeology, anthropology, sociology and architecture.

In 2001, Akko was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, for its well-preserved subterranean Crusader city dating from 1104 - 1291, as well as components of 18th and 19th century Ottoman towns.

Pictured on the coin are the ancient walls of the city, the famous Khan-el-Umdan caravanserai and its clock tower, the Crusader Knights' Hall, famous white mosque and other buildings on the Akko skyline. The UNESCO World Heritage Emblem appears to the left, below the face value.

Design: Moshe Pereg

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